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Control: 22888
Rec'd: AUGUST 30 1961
8:18 PM

1961 AUG 31 AM 10:08
DEPT OF STATE

954

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 375, AUGUST 30, 10 PM

Info

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PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT 375, BONN PRIORITY 333, INFORMATION LONDON 254, MOSCOW 247, PARIS 263, POLAD USAREUR 220.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, STOESSEL AND MCGUIRE.

THREE BERLIN COMMAND MILITARY PATROLS DETAINED EAST BERLIN LAST THREE DAYS. EACH PATROL CONSISTED ONE OFFICER AND THREE ENLISTED MEN, ALL UNARMED AND IN UNIFORM, IN MILITARY SEDAN. AFTERNOON AUG 28 PATROL WAS HALTED VICINITY SOVIET COMPOUND KARLSHORST BY ARMED SOV MILITARY. SOV MAJOR AND INTERPRETER WHO INTERROGATED, CALLED ATTENTION TO SIGN PATROL HAD PASSED, BEARING STATEMENT IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, GERMAN AND RUSSIAN, "MEMBERS OF FOREIGN MILITARY LIAISON MISSIONS PROHIBITED BEYOND THIS POINT." PATROL RELEASED AFTER EXAMINATION OF IDENTITY DOCUMENTS AND LENGTHY INTERROGATION DURING WHICH SOVS QUESTIONED PERSISTENTLY TO ELICIT ADMISSION PATROL WAS COLLECTING INTELLIGENCE. PATROL PLAYED DUMB. EPISODE CONCLUDED WITH STATEMENT BY INTERROGATOR, "IF YOU DO THIS AGAIN, YOU, YOUR PERSONNEL AND CAR WILL BE DETAINED."

SECOND EPISODE OCCURRED AUG 29. US PATROL CONSISTING DIFFERENT PERSONNEL IN SAME VEHICLE AS PREVIOUS DAY WAS STOPPED BY EAST BERLIN TRANSPORT POLICE (TRAPO) IN VICINITY TRAPO HEADQUARTERS ADLERSHOF, EAST BERLIN. THIS PATROL HAD PASSED QUADRILINGUAL SIGN AS IN PREVIOUS DAY'S INCIDENT.

SOV OFFICER APPEARED ON SCENE ABOUT ONE HOUR AFTER SUMMONING REQUESTED BY PATROL. WHEN SOV OFFICER REPROACHED PATROL WITH HAVING PENETRATED RESTRICTED AREA, US OFFICER ASSERTED RIGHT OF

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO <i>EUL/ER</i>	ACTION TAKEN <i>W.A.D.</i>
NAME OF OFFICER <i>Am</i>	DATE OF ACTION <i>9/1</i>
OFFICE SYMBOL	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R <i>File</i>

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-2- 375, AUGUST 30, 10 PM FROM BERLIN

MOVEMENT ANYWHERE WITHIN CITY LIMITS. SOV OFFICER BECAME OVER-BEARING AND ABUSIVE. US OFFICER REBUKED SOV OFFICER FOR LACK MILITARY COURTESY. SOV OFFICER, AFTER REITERATING ALLEGATION OF ILLEGAL ACTION AND STATING, "SOONER OR LATER YOU WILL HAVE TO RECOGNIZE A SOVEREIGN STATE," RELEASED PATROL WHICH RETURNED WEST BERLIN WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT. DURING DETENTION: SOV OFFICER HAD NOTED THAT VEHICLE WAS SAME ONE DETAINED PREVIOUS DAY.

PATROL CONSISTING SAME VEHICLE AND PERSONNEL AS IN AUG 28 INCIDENT, NOTICED AND FOLLOWED CONVOY OF EAST GERMAN SECURITY ALERT POLICE IN EAST BERLIN TODAY. NO RESTRICTED AREA SIGN PASSED. PATROL FOLLOWED CONVOY ALMOST TO NORTHEAST BERLIN "SOVZONE BORDER, WHEN INTERCEPTED AND DIRECTED TO SIDE OF ROAD BY SECURITY ALERT POLICE (SAP) ON MOTORCYCLE BRINGING UP REAR. REFUSING SAP REQUEST PRESENT IDENTIFICATION AND IGNORING EFFORTS DETAIN, PATROL TURNED AROUND AND BEGAN DRIVE BACK TOWARD WEST BERLIN. SAME SAP ON MOTORCYCLE LEAPFROGGED AHEAD AND APPEARED IN COMPANY OF TRAFFIC VOPO AT CROSSROAD. VOPO FLAGGED DOWN PATROL, AND SAP PARKED MOTORCYCLE IN FRONT OF PATROL, BLOCKING PASSAGE. VOPO DEMANDED IDENTIFICATION AND ORDERED PERSONNEL OUT OF VEHICLE. PATROL REFUSED AND DEMANDED SOV OFFICER. AT THIS POINT, MOTORCYCLE LEFT SCENE, OPENING PASSAGE. SINCE VOPO REFUSED EXPLAIN DETENTION, PATROL DROVE OFF AFTER PATROL LEADER STATED, "I WILL AWAIT A SOVIET OFFICER AT FRIEDRICHSTRASSE."

AS PATROL PROCEEDED, IT OBVIOUS VOPO ALONG ROUTE ALERTED, SINCE SEVERAL ATTEMPTS MADE TO FLAG VEHICLE DOWN. VEHICLE IGNORED THESE ON GROUNDS NO PROPER HALT SIGNAL GIVEN. VEHICLE FINALLY STOPPED BY RED TRAFFIC LIGHT VICINITY ALEXANDERPLATZ, WHERE IT OVERTAKEN BY SAME SAP WITH VOPO ON BACK OF HIS MOTORCYCLE. VOPO STATIONED SELF 10 YARDS IN FRONT OF PATROL VEHICLE, ATTEMPTED DIRECT PATROL TO SIDE OF ROAD. AT THIS POINT, LIGHT TURNED GREEN AND PATROL DECIDED BYPASS VOPO. AS VEHICLE PASSED HIM, ALMOST BUMPING HIM, VOPO LASHED OUT WITH NIGHTSTICK IN APPARENT ATTEMPT STRIKE SERGEANT SEATED IN RIGHT FRONT SEAT THROUGH PARTLY OPENED WINDOW. NIGHTSTICK STRUCK AND CRACKED WINDOW. PATROL VEHICLE CONTINUED AND HAD ALMOST REACHED

FRIEDRICHSTRASSE

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-3- 375, AUGUST 30, 10 PM FROM BERLIN

FRIEDRICHSTRASSE WHEN BOXED IN BY SEVERAL VOPO AND OTHER VEHICLES. AFTER PROTRACTED ATTEMPTS BY VOPO TO EXAMINE IDENTIFICATION AND REPEATED DEMANDS BY PATROL FOR SUMMONING SOV OFFICER, VOPO FINALLY ANNOUNCED SOV OFFICER WAS ON WAY. THROUGHOUT THIS PHASE DETENTION, VOPO ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY PREVENT PATROL FROM REMAINING IN RADIO CONTACT WITH US MILITARY WEST BERLIN. SOV OFFICER EVENTUALLY APPEARED ON SCENE, PAINSTAKINGLY NOTED IDENTIFYING DETAILS OF PATROL. AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER US VEHICLE AND PERSONNEL WERE SAME AS INVOLVED IN PREVIOUS DAY'S DETENTION, SOV OFFICER CALLED ATTENTION TO WARNING ISSUED PREVIOUS DAY AGAINST RE-APPEARANCE OF VEHICLE EAST BERLIN AND STATED, "THIS IS GROSS PROVOCATION. IT WILL BE PROTESTED TO YOUR HEADQUARTERS. I WARN YOU, NEXT TIME THIS VEHICLE ENTERS EAST BERLIN, IT WILL BE DETAINED AND YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO SOVIET KOMMANDATURA." SOV OFFICER ALSO MADE ISSUE OF USE OF RADIO, ALLEGING ONLY RADIO VEHICLES PERMITTED WERE POLICE AND TAXIS. PATROL RELEASED AFTER WARNING AND RETURNED WEST BERLIN.

2016(5)
[] "RESTRICTED AREAS" FIGURING
FIRST TWO INCIDENTS NOT RECOGNIZED BY US. []

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A:
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LIGHTNER

2016(5)
KEA

Note: Mr. Holloway (GER) notified 11:25 p.m., advance copies to SS and SO, 8/30/61, CWO-M.

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